

REMARKS

The Applicants have carefully considered this application in connection with the Examiner's Action and respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 16 and 31 have been amended and Claims 12, 27 and 42 are canceled. Accordingly, Claims 1-11, 13-16, 18-26, 28-31, 33-41, and 43-45 are currently pending in the application.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that dependent Claims 12, 27 and 42 are allowable, if rewritten in independent form. While the Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's basis of rejection for the claims as previously submitted, they have presently amended independent Claims 1, 16 and 31, incorporating the elements of Claims 12, 27 and 42, respectively, as suggested by the Examiner to expedite prosecution of the present application. Claims 12, 27 and 42 are canceled. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner pass all are currently pending Claims to issue.

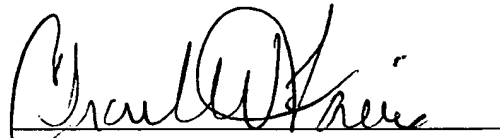
II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a timely Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-11, 13-16, 18-26, 28-31, 33-41, and 43-45.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

HITT GAINES, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles W. Gaines", written over a horizontal line.

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Dated: 4/1/04

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